Exhibit Synopsis - 31 October 2017

Toward United Nations

The Five Cent Commemorative Issue of 1945

Historical Background

President Franklin D. Roosevelt met with leaders of embattled countries during World War II and laid groundwork for an international peace organization to replace the League of Nations. Fifty nations attended the United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO) in San Francisco from 9 April to 26 June 1945. To publicize this event, a commemorative postage stamp, designed by Roosevelt and Postmaster General Walker, was issued on the first day of the conference.

Significance

This postage stamp was assigned a five cent value as an underlying political statement. It paid the foreign destination surface rate to all nations, including those that did not originally agree to participate in the formation of a new international peace organization to replace the League of Nations. Representing a conference of most world nations, postal significance of this stamp bears special mention for its impact on spreading the word of the formation of an international organization seeking peace for mankind. No single nation's issue compares to the social message extended by this simple design.

Focus

This exhibit focuses on development and use of this single commemorative stamp. From the design phase to rates within the U.S. and its territories, to destinations within North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia as well as special services are included. United Nations related uses and commercial covers with multiple copies of the issue paying the actual rate or service fee (or most of it) are preferred when selecting covers to represent each rate as these covers are by far less common.

Exhibit Organization

1. Design and Process
2. Domestic and Territorial Destinations - by rate
3. Special Services (special delivery and registration)
4. Foreign Destinations - by rate based on continental destination

Challenge and Rarity

Design material is exceptionally rare and outside of museum holdings, examples of most recorded pieces are included. Due to the brevity of the meeting, approximately two months, mail to and from the San Francisco conference or service usage by the United Nations in subsequent years is relatively scarce and although highly sought after, rarely obtainable. Special attention is drawn specifically to United Nations related destinations such as the United Nations Conference in 1945, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) sites, refugee camp destinations and other unusual uses or destinations.

Highlights

- Photo Essay of unaccepted design with manuscript note of designer (only recorded example) - pg 1
- Large Photo Essay of unaccepted design (two reported examples) - pg 2
- Photo Essays of unaccepted designs mounted on B.E.P. page (only recorded example) - pg 3
- Small die proof (fewer than 10 recorded examples) - pg 3
- First Day of Use (unofficial city) signed by Iraqi UNCIO Delegation Chairman (only recorded example) - pg 4
- Letter to Commander Harold Stassen of the U.S. Delegation during the conference - pg 6
- '*Forwarded in Pouch*' diplomatic usage to UNRRA Refugee Camp Nuseirat, M.E.F. - pg 10
- '*Retour*' (return to sender) examples from foreign destinations: Eastern States Agency (India), Burma - pg 11
- Foreign destinations: Eastern States Agency (India), Burma - pg 11, St. Pierre & Miquelon - pg 12
  French Cameroon, Bechuanaland Protectorate - pg 15, UNRRA - Canton and Refugees - Shanghai, China - pg 16

(Rarity factors based on research of exhibitor, published information of U.N., U.N.P.I., philatelic exhibits and societies)

References

United Nations Philately - Forerunners (pgs 931-933) -Arleigh Gaines, 1980, R.&D. Publications, N.Y.
Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Stamps of the United States 1933-45 (pgs 318-21) - Brian C. Baur, 1993, Linn's Stamp News
Scott 928 - The Journal, Vol 27 #3 (pg. 20) - Richard Powers, 2003, United Nations Philatelists, Inc.